

MISSOULA  
COUNTY



MISSOULA COUNTY CLERK & RECORDER/TREASURER  
200 WEST BROADWAY  
MISSOULA MT 59802

SENATE

State Admin

Exhibit No.

1/23/13

SB 122

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To: Charman Ron Arthun  
Senate State Administration Committee Members

From: Vickie M. Zeier, Missoula County Clerk & Recorder/Treasurer

Date: January 22, 2013

Re: SB 122

Chair Arthun and Committee Members,

I regret I am unable to attend the hearing for Senate Bill 122 on Wednesday, January 23, 2013. Please accept my written comments. I support SB 122 - revise election laws regarding local nonpartisan elections.

The City of Missoula elected positions are nonpartisan. Under current law, if the number of candidates exceeds 3 times the number to be elected to the office in no more than half of the offices on the ballot and the number of candidates in excess of 3 times is not more than one for any office on the ballot the primary need not be held.

If the local nonpartisan primary does need to be held under the scenario described above and current law, if one Ward meets the criteria to conduct a primary election, all Wards must be included in the primary election. This is costly and electors get very upset and confused that they are receiving a primary ballot. In less than two months, the electors will get the general ballot with the same candidates listed. In many cases, a Ward may have a single candidate, we are required to prepare a ballot for the primary election. Under SB122, *only* those local nonpartisan offices that have 3 or more candidates would be on the primary ballot.

Thank you for considering my remarks.

Best wishes,

Vickie Zeier  
Missoula County Elections Administrator